Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OVIP, UY

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: STATE 92197

1. INITIAL COMMENTARY ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN MINIMAL. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT. WHILE THE FEW PRIVATE COMENTS MADE TO EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN LOW KEY, REFLECTING UNDERSTANDING OF THE INDOCHINA REASONS GIVEN FOR THE CANCELLATION WHICH DAILY NEWS MAKES ALL TOO CLEAR, THERE IS ALSO A CLEAR SUGGESTION THAT THE SECRETARYDOES NOT GIVE MUCH PRIORITY TO LATIN AMERICA.

2. ONLY ONE PAPER COMMENTED ON THE CANCELLATION, EL AIRIO, A CONSERVATIVE, AFTERNOON DAILY WHICH SEIZED UPON THEOPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE U.S. IN AN APRIL 22 EDITORIAL TITLED, "THE FRUSTRATED TRIP OF HENRY KISSINGER," EL DIARIO OPENED WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE TRIP, AT A GLANCE, HAD BEEN SET UP AS AN ACT OF DEFERENCE TO LATIN AMRICA, COMING AS IT DID DURING "THE COLLAPSE OF AMERICAN POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CONSEQUENT EVENTUALITY OF HIS RESIGNATION." HOWEVER, ADDED THE EDITORIAL, A DEEPER LOOK INTO THE PROJECTED TRIP SHOWED IT TO BE A BANAL, USELESS, AND EVEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE ACT OF FORCED COURTESY WHICH WOULD NOT CLEAR UP TARNISHED HEMISPHERIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELAIONS."

- 3. THERE FOLLOWED A VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON 150 YEARS OF U.S. POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA, TOUCHING ON, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BIG STICK DIPLOMACY, MILITARY INVERVENTIONS, U.S. CUBAN POLICY, THE MATURE PARTNERSHIP (TO LET KENNEDY'S GENEROUS PROGRAM LANGUISH) AND THE NEW DIALOGUE.
- 4. REFERRING TO A STATEMENT IN WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT CLOSE TIES WITH OUR HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBORS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF U.S. POLICY, THE EDITOR ALSO COMMENTED THAT THIS POINT OF VIEW NEEDS TO BE WEIGHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH "THE POLICY OF DETENTE PLOTTED WITH THE USSR AND THE CONSEQUENT DIVIDING UP OF TANGENTIAL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND PRIVATE RESERVES."
- 5. URUGUAY'S LEADING DAILY, EL PAIS, DID NOT COMMENT EDITORIALLY. HOWEVER, ON APRIL 23 IT RAN A WIRE SERVIE STORY WHICH REPORTED THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON HAD EVADED QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD TRAVELTO LATIN AMERICA THIS YEAR AND HEADLINED IT, "WILL HE COME IN THIS DECADE AT LEAST"?

6. GDS. SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

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